

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify what is intended to be claimed as the invention.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1-15

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over apparently Yoshino et al. (US 5955185) in view of Takahashi (JP 2003-073598) and Nojima et al. (US 6620470).

The Examiner's Position

With respect to the argument filed October 25, 2007 that the colorant receiving layer has a porous structure containing organic polymer fine particles, the Examiner reads the claim as the recording medium containing a porous structure containing organic polymer fine particles. Also, the Examiner indicates that in column 22, lines 12-23 of Nojima, a porous structure containing organic polymer fine particles is disclosed. The Examiner indicates that further clarification within the claim language is needed in order to read the claim such that the porous structure containing organic polymer fine particles is only within the colorant receiving layer.

Applicants' Response

In response to the Examiner's indication that she reads claim 1 as reciting that the recording medium contains a porous structure containing organic polymer fine particles, and to expedite allowance, Applicants have amended claim 1 to change "an ink jet recording medium

comprising a support and a colorant receiving layer provided on the support and having a porous structure containing at least organic polymer fine particles" to "an ink jet recording medium comprising a support and a colorant receiving layer provided on the support, wherein the colorant receiving layer has a porous structure containing at least organic polymer fine particles".

With such a further clarifying amendment, Applicants submit that the disclosure at column 22, lines 12-23 in Nojima as cited by the Examiner concerns a porous interlayer (which is different from the ink absorptive layer as can be seen from the disclosure at column 22, lines 2-4 in Nojima), and thus neither teaches nor suggests a colorant receiving layer having a porous structure as presently claimed.

Further, in view of the above amendment, Applicants submit that the disclosure at column 5, lines 19-23 that Nojima's ink absorptive layer contains inorganic particles neither teaches nor suggests the requirement in the amended claims that the colorant receiving layer contains organic fine particles.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the cited art combination does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious Applicants' invention, and thus withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claim 16

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino et al. (US 5955185), Takahashi (JP 2003-073598) and Nojima et al. (US 6620470), and further in view of Terase et al. (US 20020174805).

In response, Applicants submit initially that Terase does not make up for the deficiencies of the other references as discussed above, and thus the combination of references including Terase neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

In particular, Applicants submit that Yoshino relates to an inorganic particle (boehmite) and Terase relates to an aqueous emulsion of a coating-film formable organic polymer, neither of which is for forming a porous coating film according to the present invention.

Further, Applicants submit that Terase concerns compositions like a coating composition for outer walls of structures such as buildings and bridges and a floor polish composition for floors of commercial facilities such as supermarkets, department stores, and hotels (see paragraph [0005] and claim 11 in Terase), and thus does not teach or suggest anything related to recording medium. Applicants submit that since one would not have applied a recording medium to outer wall of buildings and bridges or to floors, one would not have used the teachings of Terase in Yoshino.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over the cited art combination, and thus withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

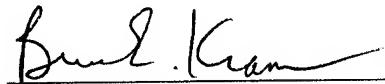
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/824,526

Attorney Docket No.: Q80776

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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